

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the processor is arranged to operate on outputs of the two or more receive chains to produce two or more received MIMO channels. Method claims 11 and 13 have been made consistent with apparatus claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 4-5, 9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by newly-cited Gore (US 2002/0102950). Reconsideration is requested.

Examiner reasons that Gore teaches “a combiner arranged to adaptively combine said antenna elements such that two or more diverse directional antenna beams are provided to receive two or more inputs” and points to Fig.1, elements 304, 324, and paragraphs 4, 8, 11 and 26. Applicants can find no basis in any of these passages, for this rejection. Elements 304 and 324 in Fig.1 are space-time processing units. Element 304 converts data to be transmitted into signals to be transmitted from each of the antennas (see para 19, lines 4-6) and element 324 converts signals received on the antennas into output data (see para 19, lines 16-18). Elements 304, 324 have a function which is entirely different to that of the “combiner” recited in claim 1. Similarly, paragraphs 4, 8, 11 and 26 contain no teaching of the “combiner” required in claim 1.

Adaptive combination, as required by claim 1, is a technique whereby inputs from an array of antenna elements are combined (typically inputs from each antenna element are weighted in amplitude and phase and summed) such that a directional beam is provided from the array. Gore lacks any teaching of directional antennas or beams and certainly does not teach an adaptive combiner.

Examiner reasons that claims 5 and 9 are anticipated by Gore in view of paragraphs 8, 11, 16 and 25-26 of Gore. Again, Applicants can find no basis whatsoever in these paragraphs for Examiner's assertion.

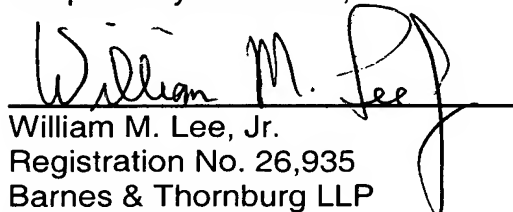
Independent claims 11 and 13 have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1 and are also considered allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Arguments about all of the dependent claims have not been presented as the Examiner's rejections are traversed in view of the dependence of these claims on an allowable base claim.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

July 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped "L" and a long, sweeping "J".

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